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Fabroleskea, a new Genus of Mosses.*

BY G. N. BEST.

Small plants in intricate spreading, pale to dark green tufts. Stems undulate creeping, irregularly divided and sparingly branched; stem leaves spreading-recurved, ovate-lanceolate, narrowly acuminate; costa thin, narrow, disappearing above the middle; leaf cells stoutly unipapillate on both surfaces; capsule erect, symmetric; pseudannulus of seven rows of oblong-oval, compressed, yellowish cells; peristome of sixteen yellowish lanceolate obtuse teeth, deeply inserted and densely covered with stiped papillae; dorsal line faint; ventral face scarcely lamellate; endostome a narrow band without segments or cilia; operculum short conic; calyptra tubular (?).

One species.

FABROLESKEA AUSTINI (Sulliv.) Best.

Leskea Austini Sulliv. Icon. Musc. 81. *pl.* 61. 1874.

Stems 2–3 cm. long, attached to substratum here and there by tufts of yellowish rhizoids; stem leaves concave, entire or sinuate-serrulate above, .7–1.2 mm. long, 3.5–.5 wide; leaf cells in rows, somewhat oblique, thick-walled, nearly uniform, basal and alar broadly oval to oval-quadrangle; median elliptical-rhombic to rhomboidal-fusiform, .009–.011 mm. wide, .013–.016 long; apical linear-rhomboidal, monoicous; perichetial bracts oblong-lanceolate, slenderly acuminate, scarcely costate, margins sinuate-dentate; pedicels erect, smooth, yellow-red, twisted above to the right when dry, 7–9 mm. long; capsule narrow-mouthed, brownish, oval-oblong, 1.5 mm. long, 0.6 wide, with 4–6 stomata at its base; pseudannulus separating between the second and third rows of cells from above; teeth .185 mm. long, .035 wide, confluent at base; endostome yellow, papillate, of 4 rows of oblong-rectangular cells .055 mm. broad; exothelial cell multiform, walls more or less curved, seldom straight; spores minutely roughened, .019–.026 mm.

Matures in late winter and early spring on trunks, rocks and limestone fences.

Widely distributed, yet local and variable. Illinois (Wolf);

* Based on specimens in the herbarium of Columbia University.

Minnesota (Holzinger); New York (Austin); New Jersey (Austin); Pennsylvania (Rau, Wolle) and South Carolina (Ravenel).

Type locality, Illinois.

EXSIC. Aust. Musc. Appalach. 267.

ILLUST. Sulliv. Icon. Musc. Supp. *pl.* 61. 1874.

REMARKS. Gemmae, more or less abundant, often in clusters, are present in most specimens. Fruiting plants collected by Mr. Holzinger at Winona, Minn., have the leaves somewhat smaller and the peristome less densely papillate. On some of the older deoperculate capsules the teeth are whitish and nearly destitute of papillae, as if these were deciduous as the result of prolonged exposure.

The gametophyte characters of *Fabroleskea Austini* indicate that it belongs to the Leskeaceae, while the sporophytes point to the Fabroniaceae, differing, however, from the latter by its papillate peristome, which resembles very closely those of certain species of *Orthotrichum*. Sullivan* remarks that "the generic position of this species is still uncertain, related as it is by some of its characters to *Leskea*, by others to *Habrodon*." Lesquereux and James† make the same observation.

The pseudannulus of *Fabroleskea Austini* is analagous to the cells about the mouth of *Fabronia pusilla*, but is much better developed and more distinct, yet not so well as in either *Habrodon* or *Clasmatodon*. The loose exothecial cells are almost identical with those of *Habrodon perpusillus*. It is, therefore, perhaps advisable, in the present state of our knowledge, to refer it as an outlying genus of the Fabroniaceae.

ROSEMONT, N. J.

* Icon. Musc. Supp., 81. 1874.

† Man. of N. A. Mosses, 303. 1884.